Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of treating a disease state selected from the group consisting of autism, multiple sclerosis, eneuresis, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, brain ischemia, stroke, Cerebral palsy, sleep disorder, feeding disorder and AIDS-associated dementias, comprising the step of administering to an individual suffering from the disease state an amount of a liposome composition effective to alleviate conditions associated with the disease state, said liposome composition prepared by a method comprising the steps of:

a) mixing a combination of lipids wherein said combination includes at least one lipid component covalently bonded to a water-soluble polymer;

b) forming sterically stabilized liposomes from said combination of lipids;

c) obtaining liposomes having an average diameter of less than about 300 nm; and

d) incubating liposomes from step (c) with a biologically active amphipathic compound under conditions in which said compound becomes associated with said liposomes from step (c) in an active conformation, wherein at least one amphipathic compound is a member of the VIP/~~glucagon/secretin~~ growth hormone releasing factor (GRF) or IL-2 family of peptides including peptide fragments and analogs used in the treatment of the disease state.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1 wherein said liposome composition comprises unilamellar liposomes.

Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 1 wherein said liposome composition comprises multivesicular liposomes.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 3 wherein said multivesicular liposomes are produced by carrying out the steps of sequentially dehydrating and rehydrating liposomes obtained in step (c) with said biologically active peptide.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to any one of claims 1 through 4 wherein said water-soluble polymer is polyethylene glycol (PEG).

Claim 6 (original): The method according to claim 1 wherein the amphipathic compound is characterized by having one or more α- or π-helical domains in its biologically active conformation.

Claim 7 (original): The method according to claim 6 wherein the amphipathic compound is a member of the vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP)/growth hormone releasing factor (GRF) family of peptides.

Claim 8 (original): The method according to claim 7 wherein the amphipathic compound is a member of the VIP/glucagon/secretin family of peptides, including peptide fragments and analogs thereof.

Claim 9 (original): The method according to claim 1 wherein the liposomes obtained in step (c) have an average diameter or less than about 200 nm.

Claim 10 (original): The method according to claim 9 wherein the liposomes obtained in step (c) have an average diameter or less than about 100 nm.

Claim 11 (original): The method according to any one of claims 1, 8, or 9 wherein the liposomes are obtained in step (c) by extrusion to form liposomes having a selected average diameter.

Claim 12 (original): The method according to any one of claims 1, 8, or 9 wherein the liposomes are obtained in step (c) by size selection.

Claim 13 (original): The method according to claim 1 wherein the combination of lipids consists of distearoyl-phosphatidylethanolamine covalently bonded to PEG (PEG-DSPE), phosphatidylcholine (PC), and phosphatidylglycerol (PG) in further combination cholesterol (Chol).

Claim 14 (original): The method according to claim 13 wherein the combination of lipids are combined with cholesterol in a PEG-DSPE:PC:PG:Chol molar ratio of 0.5:5:1:3.5.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method of preparing an echogenic liposome diagnostic product comprising a biologically active amphipathic compound in association with a liposome; said compound capable of permitting specific targeting within a recipient; said method comprising the steps of:

a) mixing a combination of lipids wherein said combination includes at least one lipid component covalently bonded to a water-soluble polymer;

b) forming and obtaining liposomes from said combination of lipids;

c) incubating liposomes from step (b) with a biologically active amphipathic compound under conditions in which said compound becomes associated with said liposomes from step (b) in an active conformation; and

d) forming multilamellar liposomes ~~products~~ having an average diameter of less than about 1000 nm.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 15 wherein the multilamellar liposomes ~~products~~ are formed by carrying out a lyophilization step.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein the liposomes obtained in step (b) have an average diameter of less than about 300 nm.

Claim 18 (original): The method according to claim 17 wherein the liposomes are obtained in step (b) by extrusion.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method according to claim 15 wherein the multilamellar liposomes ~~products~~ have an average diameter of less than about 800 nm.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method according to claim 15 wherein the multilamellar liposomes ~~products~~ have an average diameter of less than about 300 nm.

Claim 21 (original): The method according to any one of claims 15 through 20 wherein the water soluble polymer is PEG.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein the amphipathic compound in a biologically active conformation is characterized as having one or more α or π helical domains.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein the biologically active amphipathic compound is a member of the vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP)/growth hormone releasing factor (GRF) family of peptides.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein the peptide is VIP.

Claim 25 (currently amended): An echogenic liposome diagnostic product manufactured by the method according to any one of claims 15 through 20, and 22 through 24.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A diagnostic method comprising the steps of:

preparing a multilamellar liposome ~~product~~ comprising a biologically active amphipathic compound in association with a liposome according to the method of claim 15 through 24;

administering a diagnostically effective amount of said multilamellar liposome ~~product~~ to a target tissue; and

detecting the uptake of the multilamellar liposome ~~product~~ at the target tissue by acoustic reflectivity.

Claim 27 (original): The method of claim 26 wherein the target tissue is a tumor.

Claim 28 (original): The method of claim 26 wherein the amphipathic compound in a biologically active conformation is characterized as having one or more α or π helical domains.

Claim 29 (original): The method of claim 28 wherein the biologically active amphipathic compound is a member of the vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP)/growth hormone releasing factor (GRF) family of peptides.

Claim 30 (original): The method of claim 29 wherein the peptide is VIP.

Claim 31 (new): The echogenic liposome diagnostic product of claim 25 wherein the water soluble polymer is PEG.